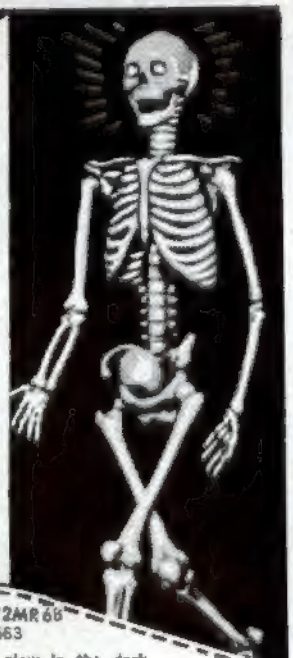
# WITCHES' TALES

DEC. 1970

50¢

Featuring
THE HORROR OF THE SPINE-SNAPPING
WINGED MONSTERS
CHILL TO THE MAN-TRAP SET BY
THE HUNGRY VAMPIRE
PLUS OTHER BEWITCHING TALES

# MONSTER S-I-Z-E MONSTERS



**7 FEET TALL**

**In Authentic Colors With GLOW in the DARK EYES**

**ONLY $1.00**

**TEN DAY FREE TRIAL**

Just imagine your friends shock when they walk into your room and see the "Monster" reaching out—bigger than life-Frankenstein, the original man-made monster, that creation of evil genius that terrorized the world. A giant 7 feet tall, his eyes glow eerily as his hand reaches out—as awful and sinister as the wildest nightmare. Yes—Frankenstein is 7 feet tall, in authentic colors on durable polyethelene, and so lifelike you'll probably find yourself talking to him. Won't you be surprised if he answers? Comes complete with eyes that glow even in the pitch dark for a special thrilling chill.

**Boney the Skeleton.** And then there is Boney—stark scary with nothing left but his bare bones. A 7 foot monster out of the grave—his bones white, his eyes staring—**even glowing in the dark.**

Money Back Guarantee.

Just send $1.00 plus 25c to cover postage and handling for each monster you want. Your money back if not satisfactorily horrified.

Honor House Dept. 272MR68
Lynbrook, N.Y. 11563

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I enclose $1 plus 25c for postage and handling for each. If I don't get shivers of delight, I can return my purchase within 10 days and you will refund the full purchase price.

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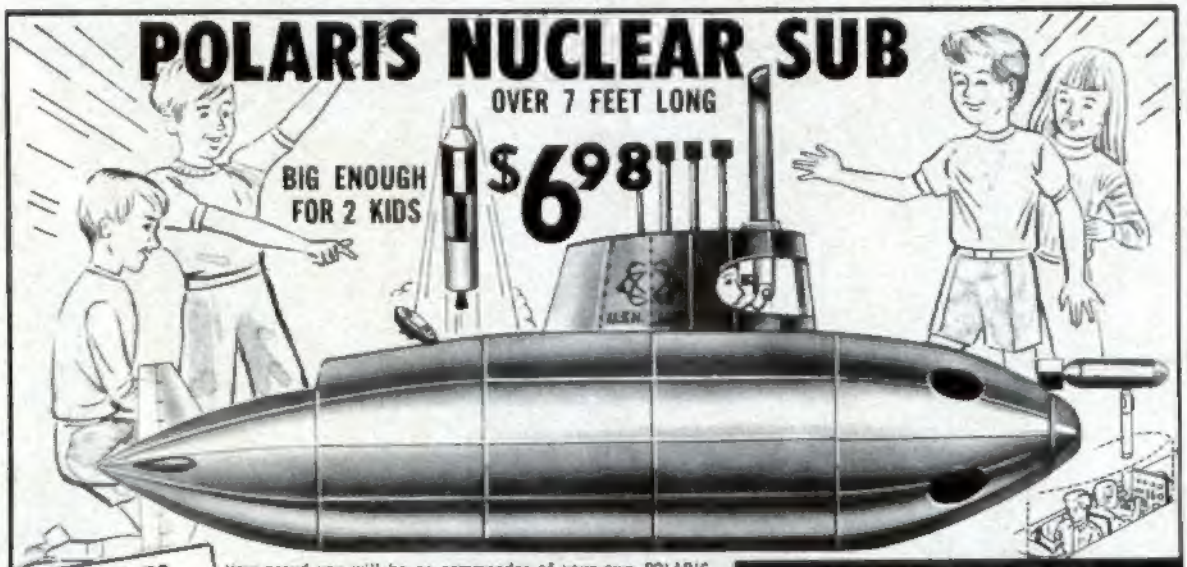
# POLARIS NUCLEAR SUB

**OVER 7 FEET LONG**

**BIG ENOUGH FOR 2 KIDS**

**$6.98**



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- Over 7 feet long
- Seats 2 kids
- Controls that work
- Rockets that fire
- Real periscope
- Firing torpedoes
- Electrically lit instrument panel

How proud you will be as commander of your own POLARIS SUB — the most powerful ship in the sea! What hours of imaginative play and fun as you and your friends dive, surface, maneuver, watch the enemy through the periscope and release nuclear missiles and torpedoes! Thrill as you hunt sunken treasures in pirate waters and explore the strange and mysterious ocean floor!

**HOURS AND HOURS OF ADVENTURE**

Sturdily constructed of 200 lb. test material. Comes complete with easy assembly instructions. Costs only $6.98 for this giant of fun, adventure, and science. (Because of the POLARIS SUB'S giant size we must ask for 75c shipping charges.)

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Order today and we will rush your POLARIS NUCLEAR SUB to you. Use it for 10 full days. If you don't think it is the greatest ever — the best toy you ever had — just send it back for full purchase price refund.

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Lynbrook, New York 11563

Rush me my POLARIS SUB. I can use it for 10 days and if I am not delighted return it for the full purchase price refund.

——SEND IT PREPAID. I enclose $6.98 plus 75c to help cover shipping charges.

——SEND IT C.O.D. I enclose $1 good-will deposit and I will pay postman $5.98 on delivery plus C.O.D. postage.

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CARL BURGOS, Editor IRVING FASS, Art Director
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GRAB YOUR PITH HELMETS, KIDDIES, WE'RE OFF ON A JUNGLE JOURNEY TO TERROR! IT'S A NO-MAN'S LAND OF HORROR AND FEAR THAT WILL KEEP YOUR TEETH ON EDGE! IT'S A DEADLY SAGA WE CALL...

# THE WINGED MONSTERS

I'VE HAD ENOUGH, BURNS! I'M GOING TO KILL YOU! YOU MUST DIE!

STOP HIM! HE'S GONE CRAZY!

OUR STORY OPENS IN WASHINGTON, D.C. IN AN OFFICE OF THE PENTAGON!

IT MUST BE SOMEPLACE COMPLETELY FORSAKEN! SECRECY IS OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE!

I THINK I KNOW JUST THE SPOT, GENERAL! AN UNEXPLORED REGION OF THE AMAZON JUNGLE... HUNDREDS OF MILES FROM CIVILIZATION!

THE TEMPERATURE IN THIS AREA IS SO HOT THAT NO MAN HAS EVER GONE BEYOND THIS POINT! WITH THE PROPER EQUIPMENT WE COULD STAND THE HEAT, AND BE ISOLATED!

SOUNDS FINE, COLONEL! YOU WILL ORGANIZE THE EXPEDITION!

DURING THE NEXT FEW WEEKS COLONEL ROBERT LADD ASSEMBLES MEN FOR HIS MISSION ...
WE NEED YOU, PROFESSOR TALBOT! WITHOUT A ZOOLOGIST, THE PROJECT IS SUNK!
THIS IS STRICTLY A VOLUNTARY MISSION, LT. BURNS... AND I WARN YOU, A DANGEROUS ONE!
YOUR COUNTRY NEEDS YOU, PRIVATE LEEDS!
A MONTH LATER PROJECT ZXV IS READY TO BEGIN AN ARMY TRANSPORT FLIES 4 MEN TO A BARREN SPOT IN SOUTH AMERICA ...
WE'RE OUT OF THE STATES NOW, COLONEL... HOW ABOUT GIVING US THE LOWDOWN ON WHAT'S UP!
SORRY, BURNS, BUT UNTIL WE REACH OUR FINAL DESTINATION, I'M BOUND TO SECRECY!
ALL THE MEN KNOW IS THAT THEY'LL BE GONE FOR TWO YEARS... THEIR PLANE LANDS 2 HRS. LATER...
WELL, SO LONG TO CIVILIZATION!
THIS IS GOING TO BE THE EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME, GENTLEMEN!
THAT NIGHT THE MEN SET UP THEIR FIRST CAMP...
HEY, PROF., WATCHA DOING? CATCHING BUGS?
NO, LIEUT, NOT BUGS... FLIES! MY SPECIALTY IS FLIES! YOU'D BE AMAZED AT HOW MANY KINDS THERE ARE!
FLIES? OH, SWELL, AN' I HATE 'EM! USED TO PULL 'EM APART WHEN I WAS A KID! NASTY PESTS!
NOT ALL FLIES ARE PESTS! SOME SERVE VERY USEFUL FUNCTIONS!
WELL, DON'T PLAN ON CATCHING ANY IN HERE! I'M PUTTIN' UP FLY PAPER!
I IMAGINE THERE'LL BE PLENTY OF OTHERS OUTSIDE!
ON THE FOLLOWING MORNING THE SMALL GROUP MAKES ITS WAY INTO THE JUNGLE...
HOW LONG WILL WE BE ABLE TO USE THE JEEP, COLONEL?
JUST FOR ABOUT 100 MILES, PROFESSOR... THEN THE JUNGLE GETS TOO THICK FOR ANYTHING BUT MACHETES AND HUMAN FEET!

LATER...
YOUR PRECIOUS FLIES ARE MAKING MINCEMEAT OUT OF ME, PROF.!
TRY TO IGNORE THEM, BURNS! COLONEL, HAVE YOU NOTICED ANYTHING DIFFERENT IN THE PAST FEW HOURS?

I THOUGHT IT WAS MY IMAGINATION... BUT THE TREES AND PLANTS LOOK BIGGER!
THEY ARE! BIGGER!

DAY BY DAY THE TREES AND PLANTS GROW TALLER... AND HUMAN TEMPERS SHORTER...
LEEDS, IF YOU DON'T STOP WHISTLING, I'M GONNA KICK YOUR TEETH IN!
CUT IT! OUT! WE'VE GOT ENOUGH PROBLEMS WITHOUT A FIGHT!
AW, SHUT UP!

AS THE DAYS PASS INTO WEEKS, LIEUT. RICHY BURNS FINDS HE CAN'T COPE WITH THE JUNGLE AND THE HEAT...
I'VE HAD ALL I CAN TAKE, COLONEL! I QUIT! I WANNA GO BACK!
NOW, CALM DOWN, LIEUT! YOU OFFERED THE ARMY YOUR SERVICES FOR PATRIOTIC REASONS! YOU DON'T MEAN...

THAT'S A JOKE! THIS JOB PAID TRIPLE PAY... THAT'S WHY I TOOK IT! NOW I DON'T CARE ABOUT THE MONEY! I'M SICK OF THE INSECTS AND THE HEAT AND...
THAT'S ENOUGH, BURNS! IF YOU WANT TO LEAVE... GO AHEAD! BUT YOU GO ALONE!

BURNS KNOWS THAT HE'S TRAPPED! THAT NIGHT HE GETS DRUNK...
YOU'RE JUSH A STUPID (HIC) SLOB, TALBOT! ALWAYSH PASHTING THOSH DUMB FLIESH!
TAKE IT EASY, RICHY! YOU'RE A LITTLE UPSET!

UPSET, (HIC) AM I? I SHOW YOU! THISH ISH WHAT I THINK OF YOUR FLIESH!
YOU DRUNKEN FOOL... YOU CAN'T...

PROJECT ZXV CONTINUES BUT NOW RICKY BURNS CONSTANTLY TORTURES AND KILLS INSECTS JUST TO INFURIATE TALBOT...

THIS LAST TERROR OF THE SNAKE IS TOO MUCH FOR BURNS... HE IS A MAN GONE BERSERK...

COLONEL LADD AND PRIVATE LEEDS WATCH, THEIR MOUTHS OPEN WITH HORROR AS THE CRAZED BURNS LIFTS HIS RIFLE AND LEVELS IT AT TALBOT...

BURNS, FOR GOD'S SAKE, DON'T...

DUMB STUPID FLY-HEAD! I WARNED HIM!

BRRUPP!

WHILE LEEDS AND LADD RUSH TO THE INJURED MAN, BURNS ESCAPES INTO THE JUNGLE...

M-MY (GASP) CHEST BURNING...

LEEDS, HELP ME GET HIM INTO THE TENT!

RICHY BURNS RUNS BLINDLY, HIS MIND INTENT UPON... ESCAPE! THEN LATER...

GOTTA FIND MY WAY BACK!

HE RUNS ALL THAT NIGHT... AND THE NEXT DAY...

TIRED... SO TIRED... GOT TO HAVE SOME SLEEP!

HE CONTINUES HIS WILD TREK FOR DAYS... NOT REALIZING HE'S GOING IN THE WRONG DIRECTION...

DON'T DARE STOP LONG... GOTTA KEEP GOIN'!

BUT AS BURNS STARTS TO SHOVE ON...

WHAT THE HECK? THIS STUFF IS STICKY! CAN'T GET LOOSE!

C-CAN'T MOVE MY HANDS AND FEET! WHAT THE DEVIL IS THIS STUFF?

ONLY WHEN BURNS LOOKS UPWARD DOES HE SEE THE MOST PUZZLING THING OF ALL.. THE "TREE" IS NOT A TREE...

AND BACK IN CAMP OF PROJECT ZXV, PROF. TALBOT IS DYING...

# THE HUNGRY VAMPIRE

NO... S-STAY BACK! DON'T TOUCH ME! Y-YOU'RE A VAMPIRE!

BUT OF COURSE I'M A VAMPIRE, MY DARLING! TCH, TCH, TCH, WHO DID YOU EXPECT... MARILYN MONROE?

HARVEY CRAIG WAS A GIGOLO! AT THE TIME OUR STORY OPENS HARVEY WAS SELECTING HIS NEXT VICTIM...

NOW, LET'S SEE, WHO SHALL IT BE? THE LAST OLD MEN COULDN'T AFFORD ME! THIS TIME IT'S GOT TO BE SOMEBODY WHO'S LOADED!

HE TOOK HIS TIME... UNTIL HE SAW ILKA HABOR STANDING SADATELY NEAR THE DOOR...

I CAN'T BEAR SEEING A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN WITH AN EMPTY GLASS! PLEASE JOIN ME!

ILKA HABOR WAS A WEALTHY HUNGARIAN IMMIGRANT! WHO HAD BEEN IN AMERICA ONLY TWO YEARS! THE POOR SWEET THING HAD NEVER MET A MET A MAN LIKE HARVEY BEFORE...

..AND YOU MEAN TO TELL ME THAT SOME LUCKY GUY HASN'T MARRIED YOU YET?

NO HARVEY!

HARVEY DEVOTED THE AFTERNOON TO HER AND WOULD HAVE ESCORTED HER HOME IF SHE HAD HADN'T HAD A PREVIOUS DATE...

...AND YOU WON'T FORGET ME BY TOMORROW, WILL YOU, ILKA?

NEVER, HARVEY! I COULDN'T FORGET YOU!

SHE LEFT AND HARVEY HUMMED HAPPILY! HIS NEW MEAL TICKET WAS AS GOOD AS LANDED! HE GOT ANOTHER DRINK AND SIPPED IT SLOWLY, HIS MIND DREAMING OF THE FUTURE... UNTIL HE SAW CARLOTTA BARTOK...

HEY! THERE'S SOMEBODY I MISSED... AND THAT DOLL DOESN'T DESERVE TO BE MISSED!

HE WAS RIGHT; EVEN IF CARLOTTA BARTOK HADN'T BEEN AN EX-ROUMANIAN COUNTESS SHE WOULD HAVE BEEN A CATCH... AND AS IT WAS, HER FAT CHECKBOOK INCREASED HER DESIRABILITY...

I'M VERY HONORED, COUNTESS!

DON'T BE SO FORMAL, HARVEY PLEASE, CALL ME CARLOTTA!

LATER, THAT NIGHT...

IT'S GOING TO BE HARD TO CHOOSE! MAYBE I'LL BE ABLE TO DECIDE BETTER TOMORROW... ILKA IN THE AFTERNOON AND CARLOTTA AT NIGHT!

DURING THE NEXT WEEK! THEY WERE BOTH CRAZY ABOUT HIM...

OH, HARVEY, DEAREST

AND BOTH WANTED TO MARRY HIM!

WHAT THE HECK WHY NOT? MARRIAGE IS MORE SECURE BUT WHICH ONE? THEY'RE BOTH RICH, BOTH BEAUTIFUL! WHAT IF I MAKE A MISTAKE AND PICK THE WRONG ONE?

BUT HARVEY WAS NO DOPE AND WHEN HE DID MAKE A DECISION, IT WAS THE RIGHT ONE. HE MARRIED BOTH!
...AND DO YOU CARLOTTA BARTOK TAKE THIS MAN...
...AND DO YOU ILKA HABOR, TAKE THIS MAN...
THE WEDDINGS WERE SPACED THREE MONTHS APART, EACH BRIDE THOUGHT HER HUSBAND WAS A TRAVELING SALESMAN!
DARLING, I HATE IT THAT YOU HAVE TO LEAVE! WE'RE JUST REALLY GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER!
I'M SORRY, ILKA, BUT I HAVE TO! JUST BECAUSE MY WIFE'S WEALTHY DOESN'T MEAN I DON'T HAVE TO WORK!
HARVEY SPENT THREE WEEKS AT ONE HOME AND THEN MOVED ON TO THE OTHER...
BUT HARVEY WAS GENEROUS, HE DID "ALLOW" EACH WIFE TO SUPPLEMENT HIS EARNINGS!
HOW DO YOU LIKE IT, SWEET-HEART?
I LOVE IT, DARLING! IT'S PERFECT!
THE TWO RESIDENCES WERE MAINTAINED AT OPPOSITE ENDS OF THE CITY. THERE WAS LITTLE CHANCE OF HARVEY BEING DISCOVERED AS A BIGAMIST!
TWO WIVES ARE BETTER THAN ONE! THIS WAY YOU NEVER GET BORED, OR TIRED OF EACH OTHER. IT'S JUST FINE!
HONEY, I'M GOING TO GET FAT!
THAT'S GOOD YOU AMERICAN MEN ARE TOO SKINNY! YOU NEED MORE BLOOD IN YOUR VEINS.
HARVEY WAS AMUSED HE WAS GAINING WEIGHT. APPARENTLY IT WAS A EUROPEAN CUSTOM TO FATTEN UP THE MEN FOR CARLOTTA TOO STUFFED HIM WITH FOOD.
OH NO NOT CAKE TOO HONEY, I'M GOING TO EXPLODE!
YOU'VE GOT TO EAT IT! I BAKED IT MYSELF... BESIDES YOU NEED MORE MEAT ON YOUR BONES!
AT THE END OF SIX MONTHS HARVEY HAD GAINED THIRTY POUNDS!
ENOUGH'S ENOUGH! I'M GOING ON A DIET! I'M BEGINNING TO LOOK LIKE A FAT PIG!

AT THE TIME HE DECIDED TO DIET, HARVEY WAS LIVING WITH WIFE NO. 2, ILKA! HE ANNOUNCED HIS INTENTION THAT NIGHT AT DINNER...
NOPE, NONE FOR ME, ILKA! NO POTATOES, BREAD OR SWEETS UNTIL I LOSE TWENTY-FIVE POUNDS!
OH, HARVEY, YOU'RE NOT SERIOUS!
IF ILKA SEEMED STRANGELY DISTURBED BY HIS NEWS, HARVEY DIDN'T NOTICE IT!
Y-YOU'RE SURE, DARLING? YOU WANT TO LOSE WEIGHT?
I SURE DO, HONEY! FROM NOW ON I'M WATCHING MY CALORIES CLOSER THAN I WATCH MY MONEY!
HARVEY WENT TO BED EARLY THAT NIGHT... BUT HE WAS AWAKENED BY A BRIGHT LIGHT SHINING IN HIS EYES...
HUH, WHAT'S UP... ILKA? HONEY IS THAT YOU?
YES HARVEY, IT'S ME! WAKE UP, MY DARLING IT'S TIME...

HARVEY WAS STILL HALF-ASLEEP, UNABLE TO SEE HIS WIFE CLEARLY...
TIME? TIME FOR WHAT? AND FOR PETE SAKE TAKE THAT LIGHT OUTTA MY EYES! HONEY, ARE YOU WALKING IN YOUR SLEEP IT'S THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT!
NO, HARVEY, I'M NOT ASLEEP! I'M WIDE AWAKE!
ILKA! Y-YOU'RE... YOU'RE A VAMPIRE!
YOU SOUND SO SURPRISED, DARLING .. BUT IT'S NOT STRANGE DEAR! MANY HUNGARIAN WOMEN ARE VAMPIRES!

SHE LUNGED FORWARD AND HARVEY KNEW HIS LIFE WAS AT STAKE..
ILKA, STOP, YOU... YAHHHHHH!
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO KILL ME, YOU MONSTER!
HE FLED OUT THE BACK DOOR AND HE WAS FREE...
THANK HEAVEN SHE DIDN'T SINK THOSE FANGS IN MY NECK! ANOTHER QUARTER OF AN INCH AND SHE'D HAD ME! WHEW WHAT A NIGHT!
AND THUS HARVEY WAS RID OF ONE WIFE! BUT NOW HE WAS WORRIED WHAT ABOUT CARLOTTA?
BUT WHAT ABOUT CARLOTTA? SHE'S BEEN STEERING ME TOO?
YES, HARVEY WAS WORRIED! WAS CARLOTTA ALSO A VAMPIRE?
SHE CAN'T BE! IT'S IMPOSSIBLE! NOT CARLOTTA
HONEY, IS ANYTHING WRONG? YOU SEEM NERVOUS LATELY?
HE DECIDED TO SOUND HER OUT... TO SEE HOW SHE REACTED TO THE WORD "VAMPIRE"..
I GUESS IT'S THAT BOOK I'VE BEEN READING THAT'S MADE ME JUMPY. IT'S ABOUT HUNGARIAN VAMPIRES!
UGH! HOW HORRIBLE! THOSE HUNGARIANS ARE RIDICULOUS!
CARLOTTA'S DISGUST WAS REAL. THERE WAS NO DOUBT ABOUT IT! SHE RECOILED WITH LOATHING AT THE SOUND OF THE WORD! FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A WEEK HARVEY FELT AT PEACE...
WANT A MID-NIGHT SNACK, HONEY? THERE'S SOME PIE LEFT!
NO THANKS DARLING, I'VE BEEN MEANING TO TELL YOU, I'M GOING ON A DIET!

HE HAD NOTHING TO FEAR, CARLOTTA WOULDN'T CARE IF HE DIETED! SHE WASN'T A VAMPIRE!
DIET? BUT WHY, HARVEY?
BECAUSE I'M GETTING TOO DARN FAT! I'M GOING TO LOSE TWENTY-FIVE POUNDS!
SHE SAID NOTHING AND WITH A SIGH HARVEY ROLLED OVER TO GO TO SLEEP! EVERYTHING WAS FINE AGAIN! AFTER ALL, ONE WIFE WITH MONEY WAS BETTER THAN NONE...
'NIGHT, HONEY BOY, (YAWN) I'M EXHAUSTED!
SLEEP WELL, MY SWEET!
AND FOR A TIME HE DID SLEEP WELL... UNTIL HE WAS AWAKENED BY AND SAW TWO HAIRY HANDS NEAR HIS NECK...
WHAT THE... OH, NO, NO...
WAKE UP, DARLING, IT'S TIME!
FOR AN INSTANT HE PRAYED THAT IT WAS A HIDEOUS NIGHTMARE... BUT AS THOSE MUSCULAR HANDS CAME CLOSER, HE KNEW THAT HE WAS AWAKE!
YOU ARE A VAMPIRE! YOU (GASP) YOU TRICKED ME!
I AM NOT A VAMPIRE... THEY'RE DISGUSTING! THOROUGHLY DISGUSTING!
WE ROUMANIANS HATE VAMPIRES! I'M PROUD TO SAY I'M A WEREWOLF!
POOR HARVEY, HE WAS TOO WEAK TO FIGHT ANY LONGER! THE LAST THING HE SAW WAS CARLOTTA'S DISTORTED FACE PEERING DOWN AT HIM! THIS WAS IT —— The End

ALL WAS SERENE ON THE OCEAN FLOOR. THE WARM CURRENTS DRIFTED LAZILY OVER AN ALMOST HIDDEN BED OF **BLACK PEARLS**-- PEARLS THAT WOULD SUDDENLY **STRING** THEMSELVES TOGETHER IN A SERIES OF EVENTS - LIKE CARDS DEALT BY THE HANDS OF FATE-- TO FORM A **GARROTE**, A NOOSE OR IF YOU PREFER,

DOWN, DOWN, DOWN HE PLUNGED! AND SIX FATHOMS DEEP, PARTIALLY COVERED BY THE SHIFTING SANDS, HE FOUND THE TREASURE HE HAD BEEN SEARCHING FOR... A BED OF BLACK PEARLS!

BLACK PEARLS! TABOO!

TABOO? YOU'RE CRAZY! AND THERE'S A WHOLE BED OF THEM DOWN THERE!

BUT THESE ARE FROM THE SACRED IDOL, POKAI... THEY ARE GUARDED BY THE EVIL ONE! THEY ARE CURSED!

POKAI? EVIL ONE? BAH, THAT'S JUST STUPID NATIVE LEGEND.. I'M GOING DOWN AND GET THE REST OF THEM!

NO! NO! THROW THEM OVERBOARD... YOU MUST LISTEN...

I'M STILL BOSS AROUND HERE... AND WHAT I SAY GOES!

WHO IS TO SAY WHETHER IT WAS ACCIDENTAL OR DELIBERATE? BUT THE WAVES CLOSED QUIETLY OVER THE FIGURE OF MANU AND THE WHITE MAN WAS LEFT ALONE WITH HIS SECRET... THE LOCATION OF THE PEARL BED...

... BUT IT WAS NOT HIS SECRET ALONE, FOR THERE WAS A PARTNER! AND LATER, BACK ON SHORE...

... BUT I HAD TO KILL HIM, SCHMIDT! HE COULD HAVE SPREAD THE SECRET OVER THE WHOLE BEACH!

BUT MURDER? WAS IT WORTH IT? LET ME SEE ONE OF THOSE PEARLS!

WHEW! I DON'T BLAME YOU NOW! WE'VE REALLY STRUCK IT THIS TIME!

THIS IS WHAT WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR... C'MON, LET'S GO OUT AND GET THE REST OF THAT BED!
THINK THERE'S ANYTHING TO THAT STUFF ABOUT A CURSE? WONDER WHAT HE MEANT BY THE EVIL ONE!
YOU OUGHT TO KNOW THOSE NATIVE SUPERSTITIONS BY NOW... FORGET ABOUT IT! WE GOT WORK TO DO!
YOU SAID IT.. IF YOU THINK I'M GONNA SPLIT THIS WITH YOU, YOU'RE OFF YOUR ROCKER!

THEY WENT DOWN TO THE DOCKS... EACH MAN WITH HIS OWN THOUGHTS! ONE VISUALIZING THE POWER THAT HIS SHARE OF THE FORTUNE WOULD BUY! THE OTHER DETERMINED NOT TO SHARE IT AT ALL... EVEN IF HE HAD TO KILL AGAIN!
HURRY UP MAYBE SOMEBODY ELSE SAW THAT PEARL!
BUT I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS THE LOCATION...
THAT'S TRUE... I'LL SIT IN THE STERN AND SEE IF ANYONE FOLLOWS US!
LUCKY

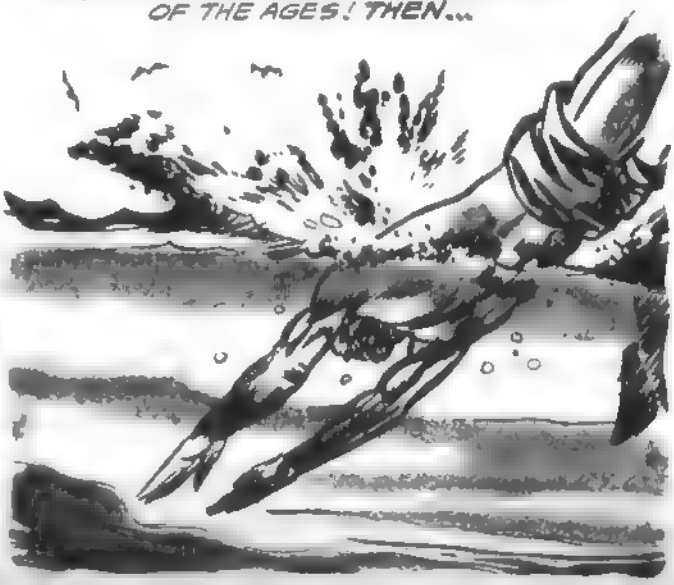
SOMEWHERE OUT IN THE DEEP PACIFIC THE SMALL CRAFT FINALLY DROPPED ANCHOR ABOVE THE SPOT WHERE A BED OF BLACK PEARLS NESTED IN THE SAND... THEY HAD ARRIVED!

A WHILE LATER...
LOOK AT IT... AND DOWN THERE'S A WHOLE BED OF THEM!
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? AREN'T YOU GOING DOWN?

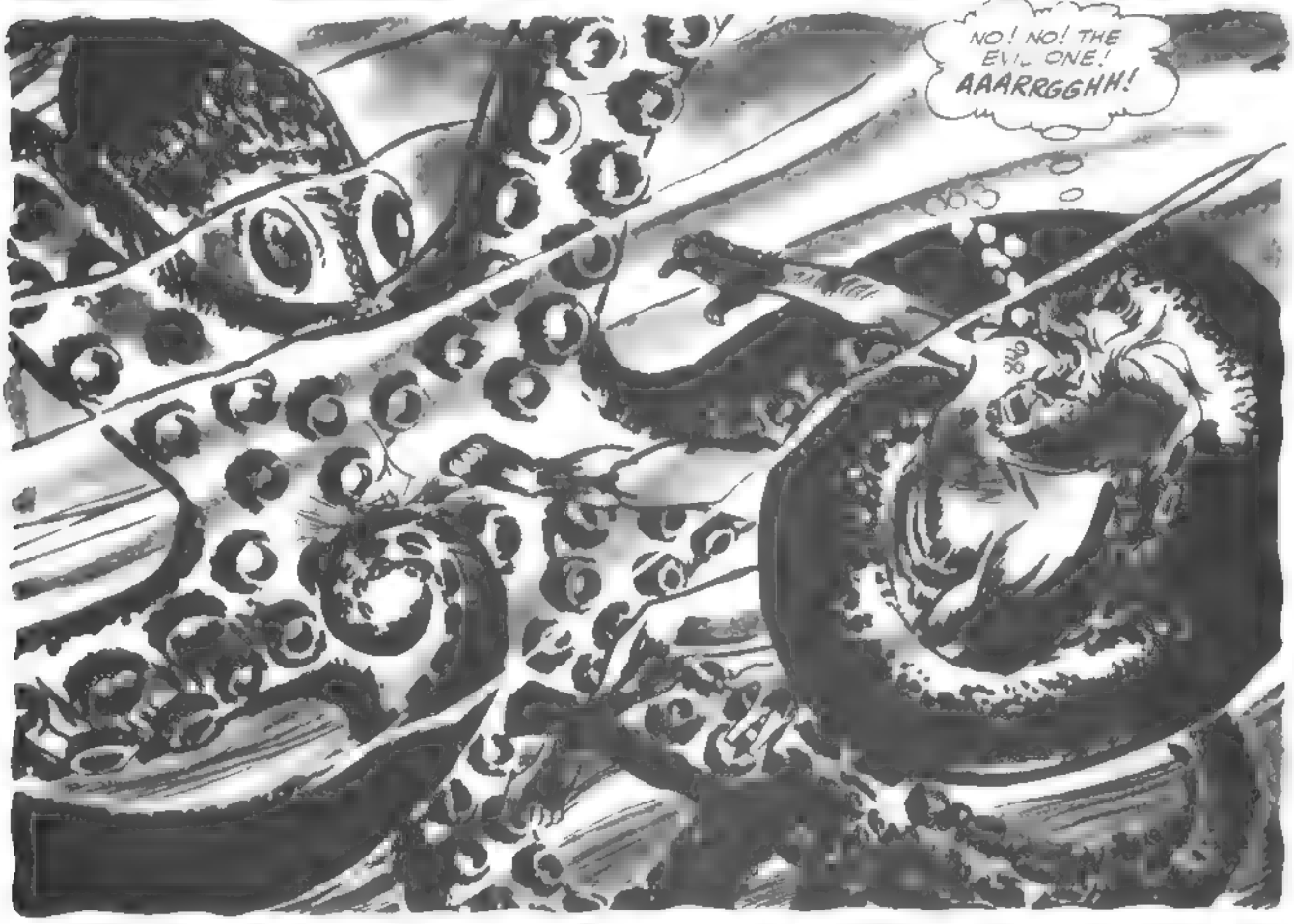
YOU BET I AM... AND SO ARE YOU!
NO! NO!

I'M NOT SPLITTING THIS WITH ANYONE... IT BELONGS TO ME!

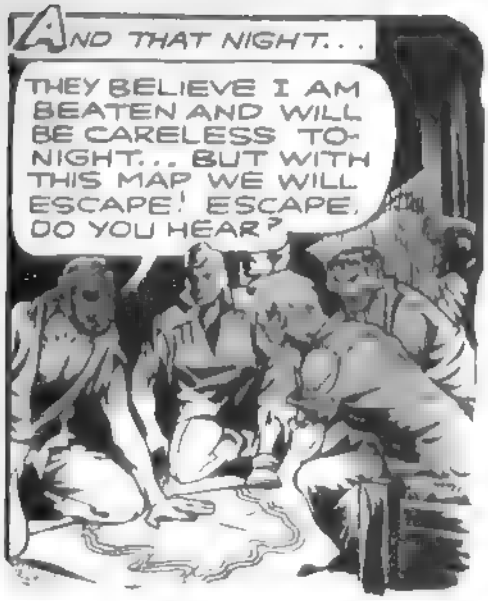
NOW TO TAKE IT... ALONE!


QUICKLY SHEDDING HIS CLOTHING HE STOOD POISED, READY TO DIVE! A DIVE THAT WOULD BRING HIM THE WEALTH OF THE AGES! THEN...

DOWN .. DOWN... DOWN... **SIX FATHOMS DEEP!** AND THEN HE SAW THE BED OF PEARLS! HIS EYES OPENED WIDE IN ANTICIPATION, JUST AS OTHER EYES WERE ALSO OPENING WIDE... THE **TRAP** WAS WAITING... SOON IT WOULD BE **SPRUNG!**



The BLOODY AX
THERE WAS NO WARNING IN THE SONG OF THE SURF, YET AS COLD AS MOONSWEPT TIDE, CAME A KISS OF DEATH TO STING INTO ENDLESS SILENCE, LIPS THAT WOULD WARN ALANI BEWARE... BEWARE OF THAT WILD, HUNTED BAND WHO RISKED THEIR NECKS IN A FANTASTIC ATTEMPT TO ESCAPE A HANGMAN'S NOOSE!!
BLEAK AND FORBIDDING IS THE PRISON ISLE OF TARRAS... BUT NOT MORE SO THAN THE BLACK SOUL OF BLOODY ROGER, WHO HAS SWORN TO ESCAPE...
TRY TO ESCAPE, WILL YOU? WE'LL WHIP YOU TO A PULP!
LET 'EM BEAT ME! I HAVE A MAP OF THE VANISHING ISLES... AND TONIGHT...
BLOOD AND SAND ARE MIXED IN A MURDEROUS CONCOCTION THAT STAINS ALANI'S ISLAND WITH AN INDELIBLE SCAR... IN THIS ADVENTURE OF THRILLS CHILLS and JUSTICE!



DAYS LATER, AMID THE PEACEFUL VANISHING ISLES WHERE ALANI RULES...

HARDLY HAS TED REACHED BOTTOM, WHEN..

THIS IS ONE TIME I PRAY THE GODS OF LUCK SMILE ON ME!
COURAGE, MAN! ALANI WILL SLAY WATER TIGER!
MY STEEL IS SHARPER THAN YOUR TEETH, UGLY ONE!
ALANI! JUST IN TIME!
AND LATER...
YOU SAVED MY LIFE, ALANI... YOU WERE WONDERFUL...
IT IS FORGOTTEN. COME, I WILL SHOW YOU THE MYSTO TREES!
YOU DO NOT EAT MORTAL FLESH THIS DAY, MONSTER!
AGAIN AND AGAIN ALANI'S KNIFE FLASHES IN THE CHURNING WATERS UNTIL A STREAM OF CRIMSON SPREADS ABOUT HER, PROVING VICTORY OVER THE MOST DREADED FOE OF THE SEA...
BUT AT THAT VERY MOMENT... NEAR THE PLACE OF THE SACRED TREES...
HERE WE ARE, LADS! WE'LL TAKE OVER FROM THE NATIVES AND LIVE HAPPILY EVER AFTER!
'RAY FOR BLOODY ROGER!
SOON...
KILL THE NATIVE BEGGARS! WE'RE THE MASTERS HERE!
HELP!
ALANI!
ALANI, EH? ALANI WILL DIE WITH THE REST. BLOODY ROGER'LL RULE THIS LITTLE NEST!

WHILE IN THE PLACE OF THE MYSTO TREES.
BEAUTIFUL, ISN'T IT? YONDER IS THE GROVE OF MYSTO VINES.
HMM... LOOKS CREEPY TO ME..

HEY! AN AMBUSH...
WHO... STRANGERS ON MY ISLE...
GET 'EM, MEN!

I'LL TAKE CARE OF THIS SHE-DEVIL.
YOU DARE TO TOUCH ALANI.
CAN'T DO ANYTHING... TOO MANY

NOW, ALANI, YE'LL HAVE THE PLEASURE OF WATCHING YOUR PEOPLE DIE... ONE BY ONE!
I AM NOT BEATEN YET..

TIME FOR THE ENTERTAINMENT! SET UP THE CHOPPER, LADS! WE'LL HAVE FINE SPORT TONIGHT!
TIME... I NEED TIME
I'M A HELPLESS, USELESS FOOL, ALANI!

HOW DO YOU LIKE THIS FOR AN IMPROVISED GUILLOTINE, EH? TRY ALANI'S FRIEND FIRST. TEST THE BLADE ON HIS FINE NECK!
MYSTO VINE AGAIN... THIS TIME ON THEIR DEATH MACHINE!

GIVE THE LITTLE LADY AN IDEA OF WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO HER!
HURRY... I GOT AN ITCH TO PULL THIS VINE!
ALANI!...

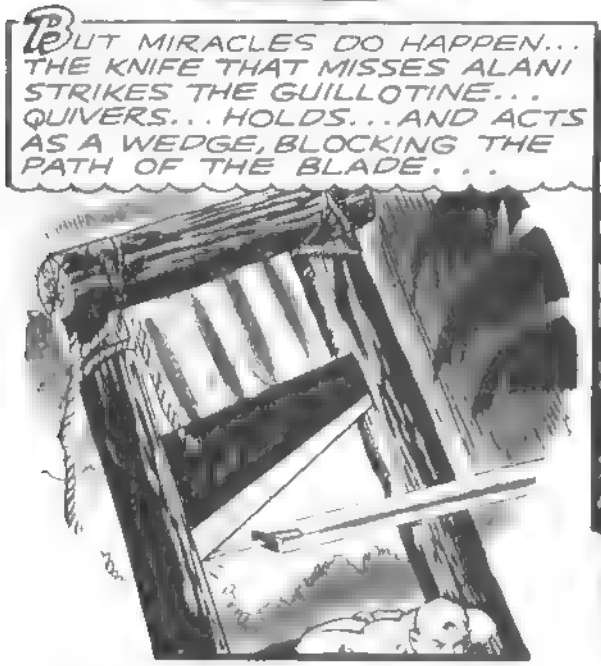
ONLY ALANI AND NATIVES OF HER ISLES KNOW THE ASTOUNDING PROPERTIES OF THE MYSTO VINE... SHORTLY AFTER BEING DETACHED FROM ITS ROOT... IT MELTS.
AH... MY BONDS GIVE! BUT SO WILL THE VINE ON THE MACHINE OVER TED!
GET READY, LADS. SOON THE BLOOD'LL FLOW LIKE WINE!

WHA... ALANI'S FREE!
SEIZE HER!

MUST SAVE TED... DEATH SURROUNDS HIM!
HURRY! IT'S OUR LIFE OR HERS!
JUST WATCH THIS, BOYS! MY KNIFE'LL TAKE CARE OF HER!

HEY! BLOODY ROGER! SOMETHING'S THE MATTER WITH THIS ROPE! IT'S STRETCHING! WON'T HOLD!

THE VINE! IT'S MELTING! THE DEATH BLADE FALLS!
MISSED! BLAST HER!
OHH... TED...
WHAT SHALL I DO? I'M HELPLESS TO SAVE HIM NOW!


BUT MIRACLES DO HAPPEN... THE KNIFE THAT MISSES ALANI STRIKES THE GUILLOTINE... QUIVERS... HOLDS... AND ACTS AS A WEDGE, BLOCKING THE PATH OF THE BLADE...

QUICKLY... FLEE! THE GODS HAVE SPARED YOU FROM THE MACHINE BUT THE EVIL ONES COULD SOON CHANGE YOUR LUCK WITH THEIR WEAPONS!
ALANI...

ALANI'S PEOPLE, INSPIRED BY HER EXAMPLE, TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE CONVICTS MOMENTARY BEFUDDLEMENT...
TWIST YOUR BONDS, TED, AND THEY WILL FALL AWAY.. MY PEOPLE WILL HOLD THEM OFF FOR NOW...
THIS FOR INVADERS WHO BRING TROUBLE TO OUR ISLES AND DARE TO DEFY ALANI!

I'M GONNA SLIT THAT PRETTY THROAT OF YOURS! YOU'RE TOO CLEVER TO SATISFY ME, ALANI!
ONLY MY WITS WILL SAVE ME NOW.

NOW I'VE GOT YOU!
IF THAT KNIFE FALLS, WE'LL BOTH BE KILLED!

SQUIRM, IF YOU WILL, IT'S YOUR LAST CHANCE TO...
DO YOU REALIZE WHAT YOU'VE DONE, FOOL! YOU'VE JARRED THE KNIFE LOOSE!

IF I CAN HOLD THE VINE... QUICKLY, MOVE! EVEN ALANI DOES NOT ISSUE SUCH A HORRIBLE DEATH WARRANT AS THIS ON HER ENEMIES!
HELP!

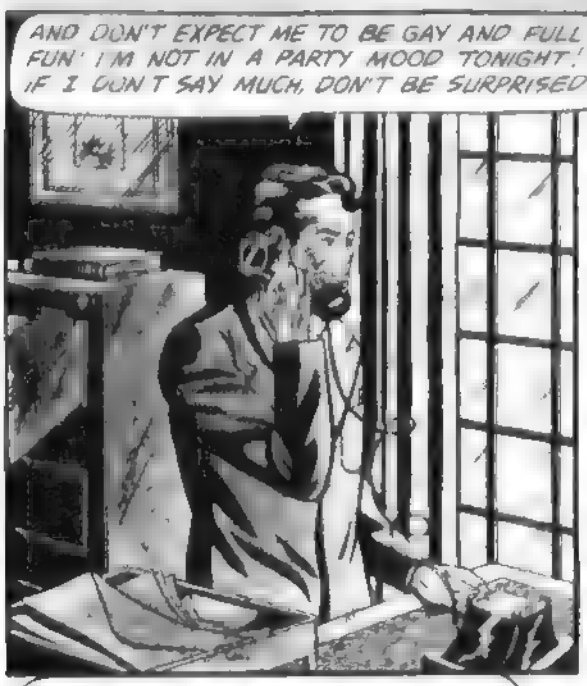
OHH... TOO LATE! THE MYSTO VINE IS MELTING IN MY HANDS!
NO! NO! WAHHH...

THUS, THE MURDEROUS SPIRIT OF BLOODY ROGER PASSES INTO ETERNITY... ONCE AGAIN THERE IS PEACE ON ALANI'S VANISHING ISLES AND THE OTHER CONVICTS SOON TO RETURN TO PRISON WILL BE FOREVER HAUNTED BY THE MEMORY OF A TRUE VILLAIN'S FITFUL END...
THE END

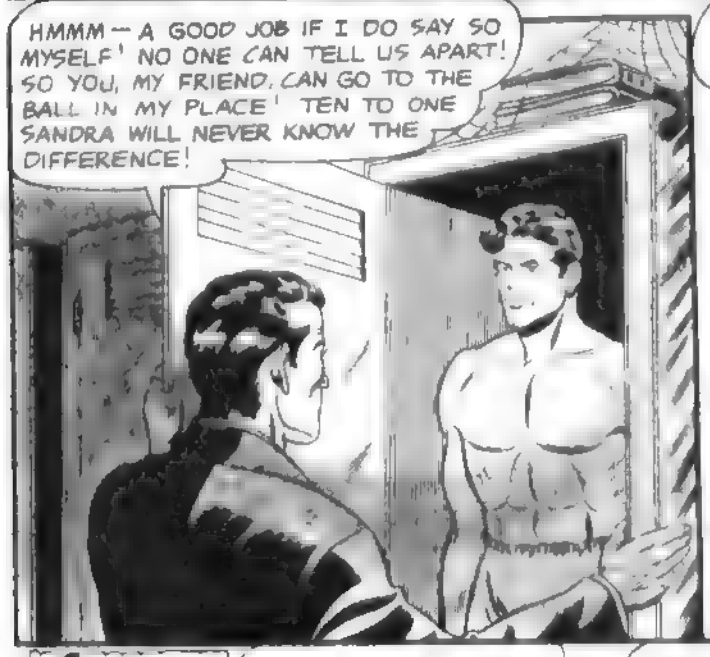
RAIN AND FOG FILLED THE NARROW STREETS OF OLD NEW ORLEANS, BUT HEARTS WERE LIGHT, AND THE SOUND OF REVELRY WAS IN THE AIR, FOR IT WAS THE TIME OF MARDI GRAS! BUT BEHIND THE GAY MASKS AND MUMMERY LURKED — MURDER! OUT OF THE DIM SHADOWS THE SPECTRE CREPT, HIDING BLOODY HANDS BENEATH A FINE CLOAK — AND BEHIND THE MASK WAS A GRINNING SKULL! TERROR WENT SCREAMING THROUGH THE STREETS IN THE WAKE OF

# DEATH at the MARDI GRAS

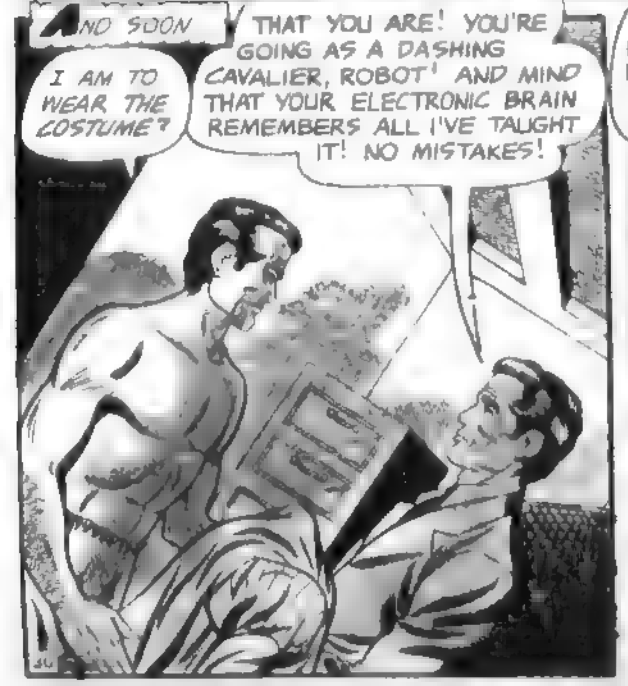
A PHONE JANGLES NOISILY IN THE HOME LABORATORY OF YOUNG DR. MARCUS KEMP..


AND DON'T EXPECT ME TO BE GAY AND FULL OF FUN! I'M NOT IN A PARTY MOOD TONIGHT! SO IF I DON'T SAY MUCH, DON'T BE SURPRISED!

MAYBE IT'S FOR THE BEST AFTER ALL I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR A CHANCE TO TRY OUT MY NEW ROBOT, AND THIS IS IT! THE ROBOT LOOKS EXACTLY LIKE ME, AND SINCE SANDRA WON'T EXPECT ME— OR IT— TO TALK MUCH...


HMMM — A GOOD JOB IF I DO SAY SO MYSELF! NO ONE CAN TELL US APART! SO YOU, MY FRIEND, CAN GO TO THE BALL IN MY PLACE! TEN TO ONE SANDRA WILL NEVER KNOW THE DIFFERENCE!

NOW I'LL JUST CHARGE YOUR BATTERIES AND YOU'LL COME ALIVE! I HATE TO BRAG CHUM, BUT YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE ROBOT HISTORY YOU'RE SO HUMAN THAT SOMETIMES YOU EVEN SCARE ME!


AND SOON
I AM TO WEAR THE COSTUME?
THAT YOU ARE! YOU'RE GOING AS A DASHING CAVALIER, ROBOT! AND MIND THAT YOUR ELECTRONIC BRAIN REMEMBERS ALL I'VE TAUGHT IT! NO MISTAKES!

LIKE YOURSELF, HUH? WELL, JUST REMEMBER THAT I'M REAL — YOU'RE A ROBOT!
I AM HANDSOME!

OKAY, NOW GO AND ENTERTAIN MY GIRL! IN THE MEANTIME I CAN STAY HOME AND GET SOME IMPORTANT WORK DONE! BOY, WOULD SHE— (CHUCKLE)— BLOW HER TOP IF SHE KNEW ABOUT THIS GIMMICK!
I GO! I WILL OBEY!

AND SO A ROBOT, AN INHUMAN THING, IS LOOSE UPON AN UNSUSPECTING CITY...
COMING, MISTER! HOLD YER HORSES!
TAXI! I WISH TO RIDE!
ROOMS

MINUTES LATER..
HERE YA ARE, MISTER! THAT'LL BE A BUCK AND A QUARTER!
WHAT IS THIS BUCK AND QUARTER? I DO NOT UNDERSTAND! I WAS NOT TAUGHT THIS!

HEY, YA NUT! COME BACK AND PAY OR I'LL BREAK YOUR STUPID SKULL! I'LL KILL YA!
HE THREATENS ME! THIS MY BRAIN KNOWS!

SO WITHOUT FEAR OR FEELING...
AGGGG

MY MASTER WILL BE PLEASED THAT I LEARN SO WELL! LESSON THREE OF ROBOT INDOCTRINATION WAS THAT I MUST PROTECT SELF AS VALUABLE PROPERTY! KILL VERY BAD WORD!
NO PARKING

LATER...
I AM DR. MARCUS KEMP! I HAVE BEEN INVITED TO BALL! YOU WILL ADMIT ME— PLEASE!
ENTER, SIR!

THIS IS A WOMAN, I KNOW! BUT WHY DOES SHE SHOUT AT ME?
MARCUS—DARLING! I'M SO GLAD YOU CAME! YOU'RE JUST IN TIME FOR THE NEXT DANCE!
DON'T YOU THINK I KNOW YOU, SILLY, BEHIND THAT MASK! YOU TOLD ME WHAT KIND OF COSTUME YOU WERE GOING TO WEAR, REMEMBER?
YES—I DO REMEMBER!
CIRCUIT NINE IS NOW WORKING!

DARLING, WHAT'S WRONG TONIGHT? YOU DANCE SO STIFFLY, AS THOUGH YOU HAD NEVER BEEN ON A DANCE FLOOR! AND MUST YOU BE SO SILENT?
DANCING WAS NOT TAUGHT ME!

WELL IF YOU DON'T WANT TO DANCE, AT LEAST YOU CAN TAKE ME OUT ON THE TERRACE AND KISS ME! IT'S BEEN SUCH A LONG TIME..

BUT THE ROBOT MISUNDERSTANDS...
SHE SAY KILL! LIKE OTHER MAN, SHE WANT TO HURT ME! I MUST PROTECT MYSELF AS BEFORE!
WELL SILLY—DO I HAVE TO KISS YOU?
AEEEEE-
MASTER WILL BE VERY PROUD OF ME NOW! TWICE TONIGHT I HAVE PROTECT MYSELF

SUDDENLY... SHE NO MOVE NOW — CANNOT HURT ME! BUT OTHERS COME — MAYBE WANT TO HURT ALSO!
HELP — MURDER! THAT FIEND HAS KILLED A GIRL! HELP!

YOU NO TRY TO STOP ME, PLEASE! MUST GO TO MASTER FOR INSTRUCTIONS!
STOP, YOU KILLER!

AGAIN THE WORD 'KILL SENDS THE ROBOT INTO A FRENZY...
NOT UNDERSTAND WHY ALL PEOPLES WANT KILL ROBOT!

MANY PEOPLES AFTER ME! BUT I GET BACK TO MASTER AND HE HIDE ME! I NEED MORE LESSONS FOR BRAIN...

GET HIM!
KILL HIM!
PEOPLES VERY ANGRY AT POOR ROBOT! I NOT UNDERSTAND — ONLY WHAT BRAIN TELL!

SO, WITH THE HOWLS OF THE ANGRY CROWD AT HIS HEELS, THE ROBOT FLEES ACROSS THE ROOFS OF NEW ORLEANS IN SEARCH OF HIS MASTER...

PEOPLES VERY PUZZLING TO ROBOT LIKE ME! I OBEY BRAIN, ALL OF THEM WANT TO KILL ME! I DO NOTHING!
THERE HE IS ON THE ROOF!
GET A COP! SHOOT HIM!

MAYBE CAN GO BACK DOWN TO STREET NOW! MASTER WILL BE WAITING TO HEAR HOW SMART I AM!

AM SAFE NOW! ALL ANGRY PEOPLES GO AWAY! BUT FEEL FUNNY—BATTERY MAYBE RUN DOWN!

UT...
THERE HE IS! GET HIM!
LYNCH THAT MURDERER!
YEAH—STRING HIM UP!

THERE HE GOES DOWN THAT ALLEY!
AFTER HIM!
CANNOT RUN FAST (PUFF)—BATTERY IS NOT GOOD!

I AM ALMOST TO MASTER NOW! HE WILL SAVE ROBOT FROM THAT ANGRY PEOPLE!

AND... MASTER! AM BACK! IS MUCH TROUBLE— PEOPLES VERY ANGRY!
TROUBLE? WHAT TROUBLE?
GREAT SCOTT, THE ROBOT HAS GOT BLOOD ALL OVER IT! (UGH)— THIS CAPE IS ALL STICKY!
AND THAT CROWD DOWN THERE, HOWLING FOR HIS LIFE! THEY WANT TO LYNCH HIM!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'VE DONE, ROBOT, BUT YOU'VE GOT TO STOP! THEY'LL BLAME ME FOR WHAT YOU DID! SORRY— BUT I'LL HAVE TO KILL YOU!
AT THE SOUND OF THE HATED WORD...
NO KILL, MASTER! IS BAD I PROTECT MYSELF!
ATTACKING M-ME!
BUT THIS TIME...
THERE— JUST IN TIME! NOW I'LL BREAK YOU UP INTO SMALL BITS BEFORE THAT CROWD FINDS OUT!
CRUNCH

AFTER THE ROBOT IS SMASHED TO TINY BITS AND THROWN AWAY, DR MARCUS KEMP TAKES THE BLOODY GARMENTS TO THE BASEMENT...

BUT TOO LATE...
T-THEY'RE IN! AND THEY SEE ME!
THERE HE IS — THAT'S DR KEMP!

WE GOT YOU, DOC! EVERYONE KNOWS YOU HAD A DATE WITH SANDRA CUMMINGS TONIGHT! THEY SAW YOU IN THAT COSTUME!
NO!

WE SAW YOU RUN IN HERE AFTER YOU KILLED HER!
NO—I DIDN'T! IT WAS A ROBOT, I TELL YOU!

I'M DOOMED! I'VE DESTROYED THE ROBOT AND THEY'LL NEVER BELIEVE ME NOW! EVEN SANDRA THOUGHT IT WAS ME! THEY'RE GOING TO LYNCH ME!

SO THE MARDI GRAS GOES ON, WITH THE LAUGHTER AND THE TRUMPERY, BUT FROM A LAMP-POST IN A NARROW STREET HANGS THE SINISTER SILHOUETTE OF A MAN WHO WAS TOO CLEVER...
The End

GHOULS CASTLE
THE WOODS SEEMED QUIET TO JOANNA... LITTLE DID SHE KNOW OF THE DARK, GRIM SECRET THAT TRAVELED IN THE WHISPERING LEAVES, NOR THAT INSIDE THE WALLS OF THE QUAINT, INNOCENT LOOKING HOUSE SHE FOUND THERE, WERE THE TOMBS OF THE LIVING DEAD — COMPELLED TO SERVE A MADMAN'S DREAM OF EMPIRE!

IT ALL BEGAN IN A SMALL UNDERTAKING ESTABLISHMENT...
SHHH! DON'T SHOVE, I CAN MANAGE!

EACH SOUND OF NIGHT SEEMED TO MULTIPLY TO THE EARS OF THE TWO... GHOULS!
LOOK! A LIGHT! SOMEONE HEARD HIM.. NOW WE'LL HAVE THE GUARDS AFTER US!

HERE HE IS! HURRY, CATCH HIM, THE GUARDS ARE COMING!
WE'RE IN LUCK! HE'S STILL WARM!

HALT! WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

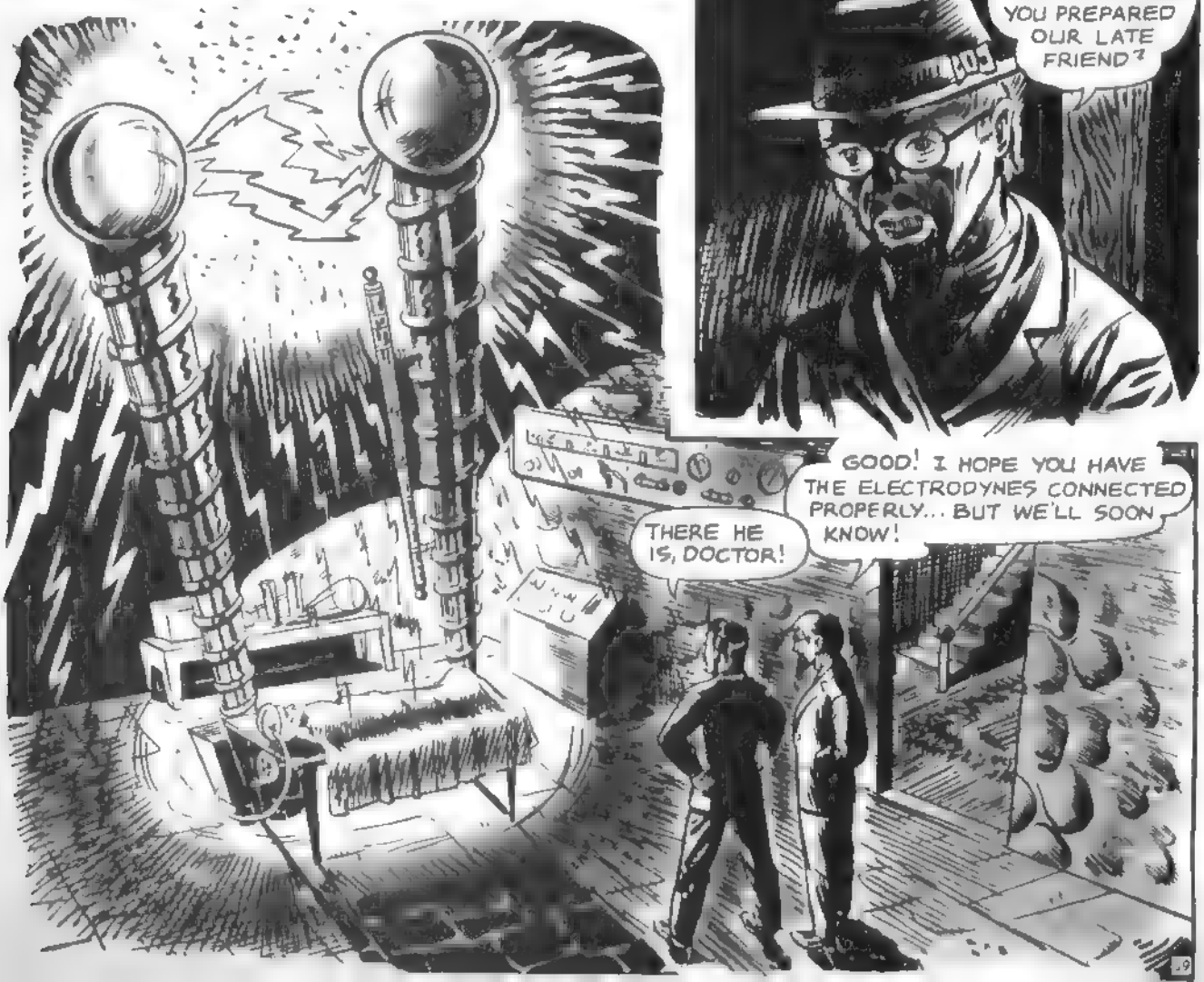
GET GOING! THOSE GUARDS ARE ARMED!
SO AM I!
THEY'RE ESCAPING WITH ONE OF THE BODIES!
AHH..

WE MADE IT!
SURE — BUT I WISH I KNEW WHY THE BOSS WANTED THIS GUY...STEALING CORPSES AIN'T IN MY LINE!

OKAY, BOSS— HERE'S THE STIFF YOU WANTED... WHAT'LL WE DO WITH HIM?
JUST LEAVE HIM HERE, I'LL DO THE REST!

DR. JAMBA? I'VE GOT PROFESSOR WILLIAMS' BODY HERE NOW— YOU'LL BE RIGHT OVER? GOOD!

WELL, BARKER, I'M HERE! HAVE YOU PREPARED OUR LATE FRIEND?


THERE HE IS, DOCTOR!
GOOD! I HOPE YOU HAVE THE ELECTRODYNES CONNECTED PROPERLY... BUT WE'LL SOON KNOW!

MEAN-WHILE..
WELL – IF I'M LOST, MAYBE SOMEONE IN HERE CAN TELL ME WHERE THE ROAD IS!

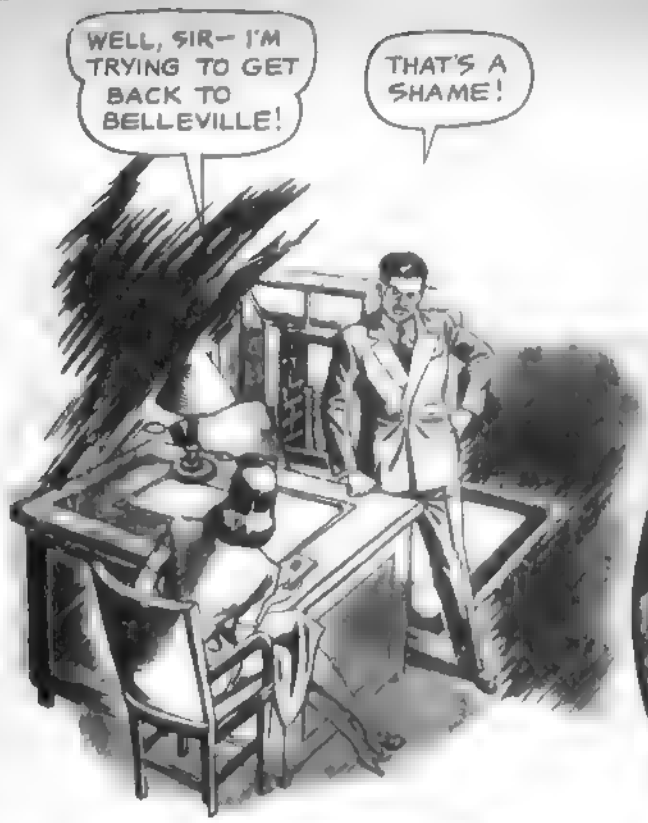
WHAT KIND OF MONSTERS ARE THEY?
YES, DOCTOR – WITH LUCK AND WITH THE BRAINS WE WILL SHORTLY CONTROL – WE CAN MASTER THE WORLD...
AH... LOOK – OUR DEAD FRIEND HERE IS REACTING... HE'LL MAKE A FINE RECRUIT!

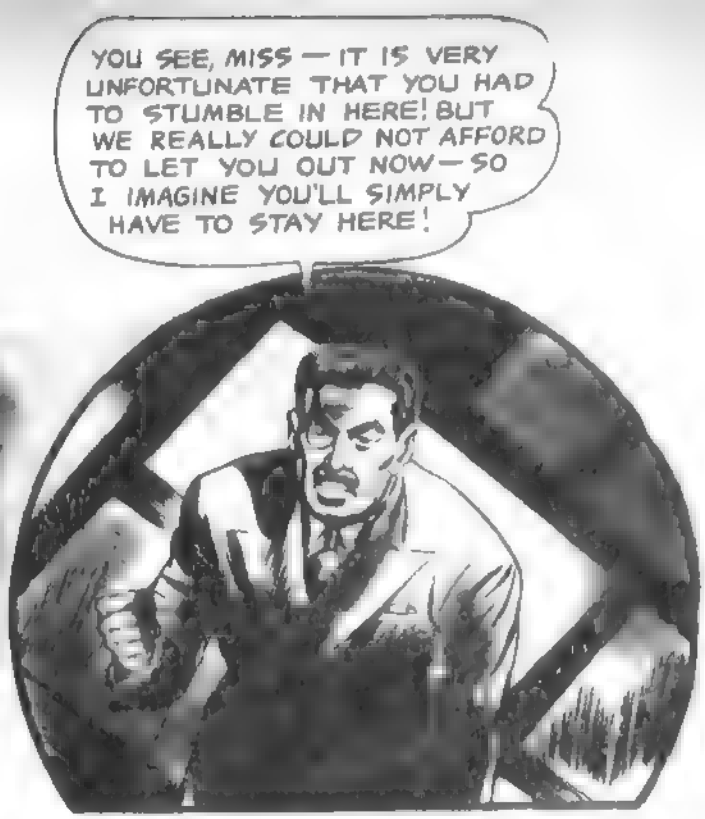
AM I DREAMING OR HAVE I LOST MY REASON?!
FINE – LET US LEAVE THE PROFESSOR NOW...
I MUST ARRANGE FOR THE NEXT ONE, DOCTOR, SO THAT WE MAY CONTINUE...

SPEAK UP! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, MISS?

EXCUSE ME – BUT I'VE GOTTEN LOST – I STOPPED HERE TO ASK DIRECTIONS...
GOOD AFTER-NOON, MR. BARKER.
WELL, COME IN, DON'T STAND THERE STUTTER-ING! GOOD DAY TO YOU, DOCTOR.

SIT DOWN! NOW WHERE DO YOU WISH TO GO?
WHAT A STRANGE MAN!


WELL, SIR— I'M TRYING TO GET BACK TO BELLEVILLE!
THAT'S A SHAME!


YOU SEE, MISS — IT IS VERY UNFORTUNATE THAT YOU HAD TO STUMBLE IN HERE! BUT WE REALLY COULD NOT AFFORD TO LET YOU OUT NOW — SO I IMAGINE YOU'LL SIMPLY HAVE TO STAY HERE!

DID YOU RING, BOSS?
YES! THROW THIS GIRL IN A CELL— I'LL TALK TO HER LATER.
TAKING ME PRISONER! WHAT KIND OF PLACE IS THIS? THEY'RE ALL MAD!

THERE'S ONLY ONE CHANCE TO MAKE MY ESCAPE, BUT I'VE GOT TO TRY...
GUARD!

WHAT'S BOTHERIN' YOU GIRL?
I FEEL SICK.. A PAIN.. HERE.. IN MY ARM.. SEE...

THANK YOU! MY GOOD SHOE, TOO, YOU LUCKY MAN!
OOOFF!

AS JOANNA LEFT HER CELL, SHE WAS CONFRONTED BY A HORROR SUCH AS SHE COULD NOT HAVE IMAGINED IN HER WILDEST DREAMS . . .
PLEASE LET US OUT...
WE MEAN NO HARM...
YES! — LET US GO BACK!
WHILE JOANNA STARED INTO THE MONSTER'S EYES, A STRANGE FORCE COMPELLED HER TO OBEY...
WE HAVE BEEN FORCED TO RETURN TO LIFE... IN ORDER THAT OUR GENIUS WORK FOR THAT MADMAN UPSTAIRS. . BUT WE ARE TIRED AND WISH TO GO BACK.
BLESS YOU, CHILD .. NOW WE MUST ATTEND TO MR. BARKER..
GOOD— THEY'VE GOT A PROFESSOR WILLIAMS—AND I'M AFRAID IT WILL BE HARD TO STOP BARKER NOW!
DON'T WORRY, JOANNA! YOU'LL BE FREE TO LEAVE HERE SOON...
CAN WE STOP BARKER AND THIS WILLIAMS PERSON?
YES!
I—I'LL DO WHATEVER YOU SAY!
I REALLY FEEL LIKE ALL THIS IS SOME KIND OF NIGHTMARE

JOANNA RACED FOR THE DOOR... BEHIND HER CAME THE RELICS OF MEN LONG DEAD...
I HOPE THERE IS STILL TIME!
I WONDER WHY MY MIND IS A BLANK AS TO WHAT HAPPENED IN THE LAST FEW WEEKS? IT SEEMS STRANGE...
WHO'S THIS?
IT IS PROFESSOR WILLIAMS!
EXCUSE ME, PROFESSOR WILLIAMS! MAY I TELL YOU SOMETHING...
YES, WHAT IS IT, CHILD?
PROFESSOR—I HATE TO HAVE TO TELL YOU, BUT YOU ARE ACTUALLY DEAD! YOU SEE, BARKER BROUGHT YOU BACK TO HELP HIM TAKE OVER THE WORLD...
MY EXPLOSIVE! THAT'S WHAT HE WANTS! THAT'S WHY HE BROUGHT ME BACK TO LIFE!
NO WONDER MY MIND'S BEEN A BLANK THESE PAST FEW WEEKS!...I'LL TAKE CARE OF HIM!
YEOW!
-SO THESE ARE PART OF BARKER'S EMPIRE!

A FORCE NO MORTAL COULD EXPLAIN, PROTECTED THE GIRL AND DULLED SHOCK INTO MILD AMAZEMENT...

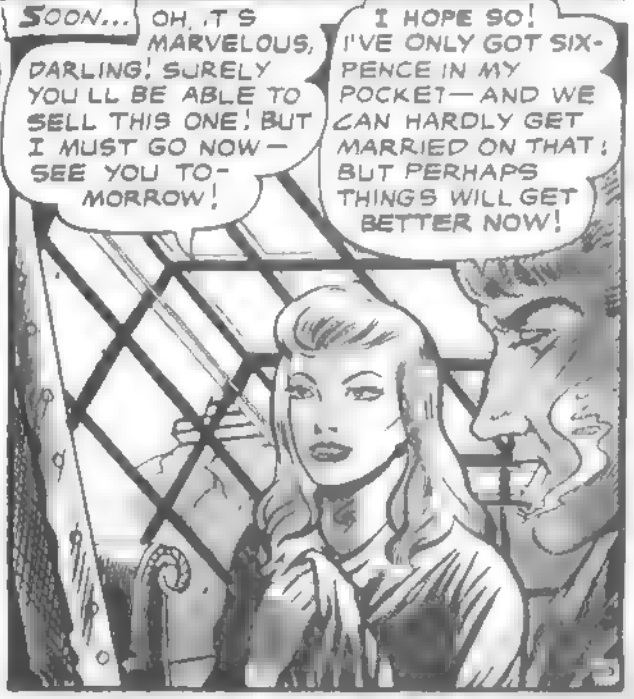
WHY.. HE DELIBERATELY BLEW THE PLACE UP! NOW THEY'LL ALL BE ABLE TO REST IN PEACE!

AS THE FLAMES LICKED HUNGRILY SKYWARD, THE STRONG MENTAL CONTROL THAT THE LIVING DEAD HAD OVER JOANNA CRUMBLED...

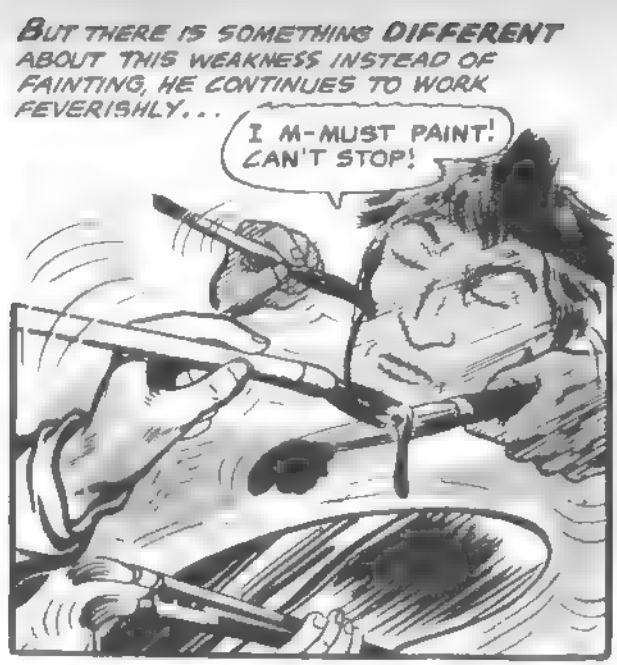
STRANGE — AS I PASSED THAT BURNING BUILDING I FELT AS THOUGH THERE WERE SOMETHING ABOUT IT I SHOULD REMEMBER..

SUSAN USED TO THINK THAT POOR TONY WOULD NEVER BE RECOGNIZED, BUT HOW WRONG SHE GUESSED! OH, HE WAS POOR TONY, ALL RIGHT... SO POOR THAT HE ALMOST DIED OF STARVATION, BUT SO RICH IN TALENT IT FINALLY BROUGHT HIM TUMBLING INTO FAME IN THE MOST SPECTACULAR FASHION! HERE IS THE AMAZING TALE OF ANTHONY CAXTON, THE MASTER PAINTER WHO USED TO THINK HE WAS UNWORTHY OF HIS OWN GREAT AMBITION AND WAS CALLED...

# The JINXED GENIUS!

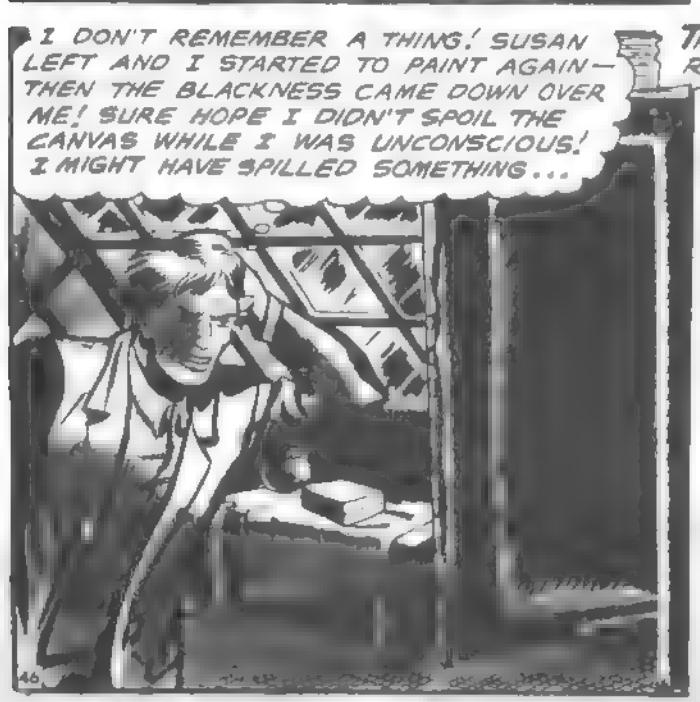


BUT TONY HAS BEEN SUBJECT TO FAINTING SPELLS SINCE HIS CHILDHOOD! NOW, WITHOUT WARNING, THE WEAKNESS STRIKES HIM...
OH! M-MY HEAD! SPINNING SO! IT'S A SEIZURE COMING ON!


BUT THERE IS SOMETHING DIFFERENT ABOUT THIS WEAKNESS INSTEAD OF FAINTING, HE CONTINUES TO WORK FEVERISHLY...
I M-MUST PAINT! CAN'T STOP!

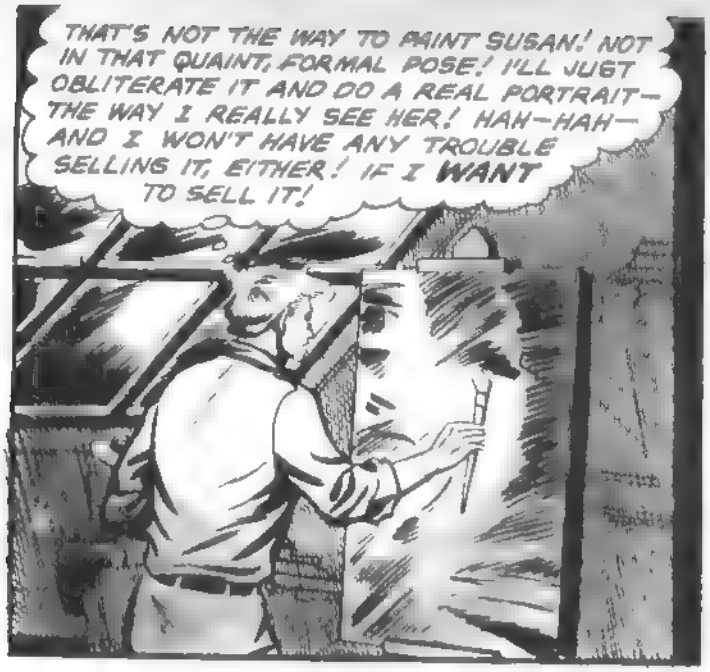
ALL THROUGH THE LONELY HOURS OF THE NIGHT HE PAINTS IN A FRENZY, UNABLE TO PUT DOWN THE BRUSH...
THIS WILL BE MY MOST SUCCESSFUL PAINTING! I KNOW IT! ONLY I MUST FINISH IT NOW— TONIGHT!

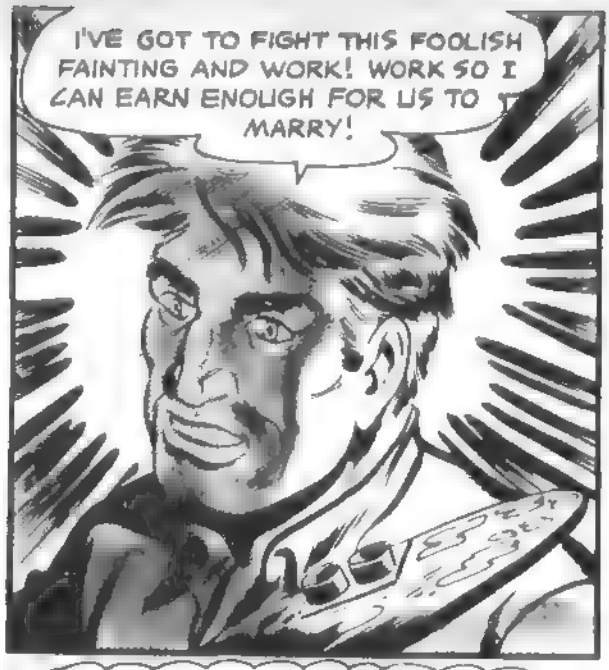
COMES A DARK AND RAINY DAWN AND HE AWAKENS ON THE FLOOR OF THE GLOOMY STUDIO...
H-HUH! W-WHAT AM I DOING ON THE FLOOR? OH— I MUST HAVE HAD ANOTHER ATTACK!


I DON'T REMEMBER A THING! SUSAN LEFT AND I STARTED TO PAINT AGAIN— THEN THE BLACKNESS CAME DOWN OVER ME! SURE HOPE I DIDN'T SPOIL THE CANVAS WHILE I WAS UNCONSCIOUS! I MIGHT HAVE SPILLED SOMETHING...

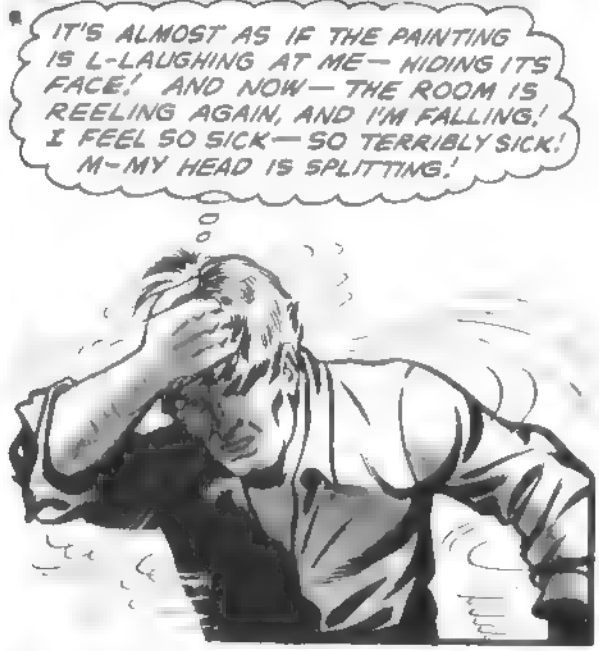
THEN HIS SHOUT OF SURPRISE RINGS THROUGH THE STUDIO...
WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO THE PICTURE? H-HORRIBLE! BUT HOW— WHO COULD HAVE DONE THIS THING?

BUT THE PUZZLED AND CONFUSED MAN SOON HAS TO FACE THE DREADFUL TRUTH...
THE DOOR WAS LOCKED, SO NOBODY COULD HAVE COME IN! I DID IT! I ALTERED THE PAINTING WHILE I WAS IN A FAINT! BUT W-WHY DID I PAINT SUSAN LIKE THAT?
AND HE WORKS RAPIDLY, DOING THE ORIGINAL PAINTING OVER FROM MEMORY...
SUSAN MUST NEVER KNOW ABOUT THIS! SHE'D THINK I WAS MAD! BESIDES, I'VE NEVER TOLD HER ABOUT MY — AFFLICTION!
THERE! I'VE ALMOST GOT IT AGAIN!
SO LATER...
BUT WHAT HAPPENED, TONY? YOU WERE SO CERTAIN THE PAINTING WOULD BE FINISHED TODAY!
YES, I KNOW! BUT I, ER, I DECIDED TO DO SOME OF IT OVER! I — I DIDN'T LIKE IT!
AS HE TAKES HER HOME...
I DON'T THINK I'LL COME UP TONIGHT, SUSAN! I DON'T FEEL SO WELL!
YOU LOOK TIRED, TONY! BETTER GET A GOOD NIGHT'S REST!
BUT HARDLY HAS HE LEFT, WHEN ANOTHER ATTACK STRIKES...
OH — IT'S STARTING IN AGAIN! S-SO DARK! I — I SEEM TO BE FALLING INTO A BLACK HOLE!
AND TONY RUSHES MADLY THROUGH THE CROWDED STREETS, HIS DAZED BRAIN DIRECTING HIS STEPS TOWARD HIS STUDIO...
I MUST GET TO WORK! I MUST PAINT! NOW — AT ONCE! I — I SEEM TO HEAR STRANGE VOICES CALLING ME!
YOU THERE, SIR! ARE YOU BALMY? YOU CAN'T GO RUSHING AROUND, KNOCKING DOWN PEOPLE!
TWEEE TWEET TWEEE
WHERE HE RUSHES TO HIS EASEL IN A FRENZY TO GET STARTED...
BAH! COULD I HAVE PAINTED THIS POOR THING I SEE HERE? IT'S TERRIBLE — BUT I KNOW HOW TO FIX IT!
I'LL COVER IT AND START ALL OVER AGAIN!
17

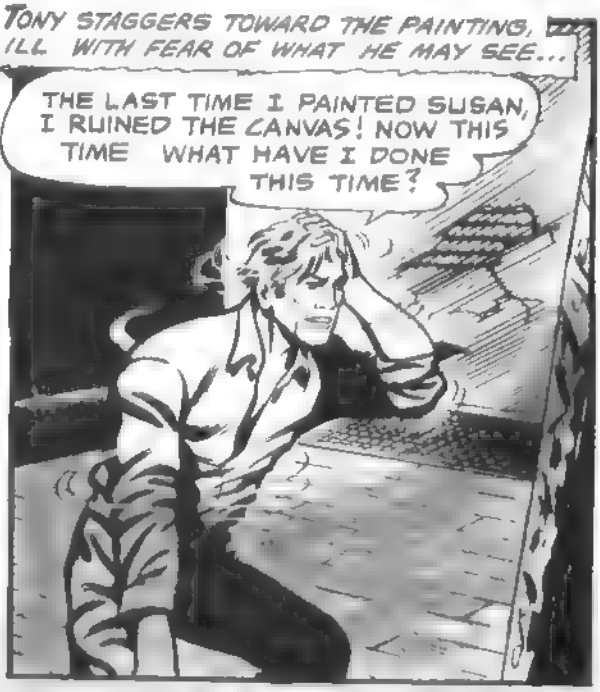

THAT'S NOT THE WAY TO PAINT SUSAN! NOT IN THAT QUAINT, FORMAL POSE! I'LL JUST OBLITERATE IT AND DO A REAL PORTRAIT— THE WAY I REALLY SEE HER! HAH—HAH— AND I WON'T HAVE ANY TROUBLE SELLING IT, EITHER! IF I WANT TO SELL IT!


I'VE GOT TO FIGHT THIS FOOLISH FAINTING AND WORK! WORK SO I CAN EARN ENOUGH FOR US TO MARRY!

THE HOURS PASS...
FUNNY, BUT I CAN'T SEEM TO FINISH IT! THE HEAD, THE FACE, JUST WON'T COME OUT RIGHT! IT F-FADES OUT EVERY TIME!


IT'S ALMOST AS IF THE PAINTING IS L-LAUGHING AT ME— HIDING ITS FACE! AND NOW— THE ROOM IS REELING AGAIN, AND I'M FALLING! I FEEL SO SICK— SO TERRIBLY SICK! M-MY HEAD IS SPLITTING!

S-SO WEAK! I CAN'T GET UP OFF THE FLOOR, YET MY MIND IS CLEAR AGAIN NOW! I CAN REMEMBER— I TOOK SUSAN HOME, THEN THE ATTACK CAME! I—I MUST HAVE GOTTEN TO THE STUDIO SOMEHOW!


TONY STAGGERS TOWARD THE PAINTING, ILL WITH FEAR OF WHAT HE MAY SEE...
THE LAST TIME I PAINTED SUSAN, I RUINED THE CANVAS! NOW THIS TIME WHAT HAVE I DONE THIS TIME?

TONY STARES IN DISBELIEF...
MY OWN HEAD! EVERYONE KNOWS AN ARTIST USUALLY DRAWS HIS OWN FEATURES, BUT THIS IS RIDICULOUS!

I'M TRYING TOO HARD! INSTEAD OF ART I'M CREATING FOOLISHNESS! I SHOULD REST OR I MAY LOSE THE LITTLE TALENT I HAVE!

IF ONLY MY HEALTH COULD BE DEPENDED ON, BUT I'M NOT EATING PROPERLY, AND I'M WORKING TOO LATE... IT'S CATCHING UP WITH ME!

BESIDES... MY HANDS ARE SHAKING TOO MUCH TO HOLD A BRUSH ANYMORE! I'VE GOT TO QUIT!

KNOWING HE NEEDS HELP, TONY RUNS SLOWLY BUT DIRECTLY TO THE HOME OF THE GIRL, SUSAN...
SHE'LL HELP ME! I'LL TELL HER EVERYTHING! MAYBE SHE KNOWS A GOOD DOCTOR WHO CAN CURE ME!

BUT WHEN HE BURSTS IN...
SUSAN! THANK GOODNESS YOU'RE— BUT WHO'S THIS?
TONY! HOW DARE YOU B-BREAK IN LIKE THIS?
THIS THE MAN YOU WERE TELLING ME ABOUT? THE CRAZY ARTIST?

RED RAGE BOILS IN TONY— HE FORGETS EVERYTHING BUT THE INSULT...
YOU CALL ME CRAZY? I'LL FIX YOU FOR THAT! TRYING TO TAKE MY GIRL!
LEAVE ME ALONE! YOU'RE NOTHING! GET AWAY FROM ME!
TONY! STOP IT! I LOVE ROLF!

CONTINUED ON BACK COVER

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ILL HIMSELF, TONY STRUGGLES TO MAKE SUSAN COMFORTABLE...
OH, TONY, I'M SO SORRY... YOU KNOW HOW MUCH I CARE FOR YOU!
THERE...NOW DRINK THIS WATER...IT WILL HELP YOU!

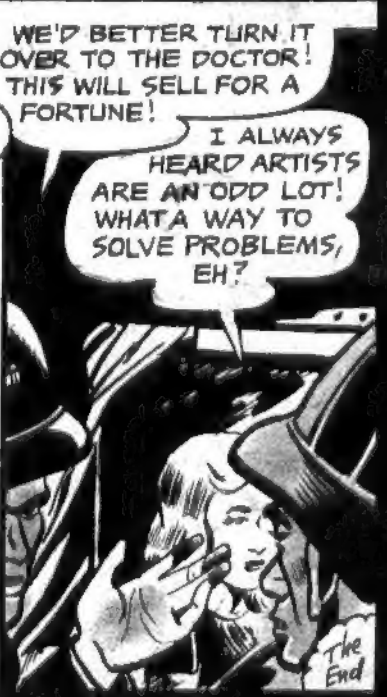
SUDDENLY TONY FEELS A SEIZURE OF FAINTING OVERCOMING HIM.. DESPERATELY HE RUSHES TO THE WINDOW...
I MUST GET HELP...IT WOULD TERRIFY HER TO SEE ME IN ONE OF THOSE DEEP FAINTS!

BUT TOO LATE...TONY FAINTS AND...
HELP!

INSTANTLY, THE NEIGHBORS COME TO HIS AID...
THIS POOR MAN IS IN NEED OF HOSPITALIZATION! WHY, HE'S HALF STARVED...
STAND BACK, FOLKS, HE'S ONLY FAINTED!
WHAT LUCK TO FALL IN THE GARDEN!

AND SO TONY BECOMES A WARD OF THE DOCTOR'S...
THE DOCTOR WAS RIGHT! ONLY PAINTINGS HERE! NOT A TRACE OF FOOD!
AND YOU CAN'T EAT PAINTINGS! POOR CHAP WAS IN A BAD WAY!

BUT LOOK! BY JOVE, LITTLE AS I KNOW ABOUT ART, THAT'S BREATH-TAKING!
I'LL SAY IT IS! BEAUTIFUL!


WE'D BETTER TURN IT OVER TO THE DOCTOR! THIS WILL SELL FOR A FORTUNE!
I ALWAYS HEARD ARTISTS ARE AN ODD LOT! WHAT A WAY TO SOLVE PROBLEMS, EH?
The End